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# The Xavier NEWSWIRE

Published by the students of Xavier University since 1915 | *Fiat justitia, ruat coelum* | Volume C Issue 15

December 10, 2014



## Garner: I can't breathe

### Students rally after disputed Grand Jury decisions

BY RICH MEYER  
Copy Editor

Xavier students joined the many protests that have taken place across the country in the last two weeks in response to racial profiling and police brutality which has garnered national attention. About 100 protestors were present at the event, which took place on Dec. 6 before the men's basketball game against Alabama.

A New York grand jury ruled on Dec. 3 that the court would not indict Daniel Pantaleo, a white police officer, for killing Eric Garner, a black male, in Staten Island, N.Y.

Pantaleo was caught on tape while putting Garner in a chokehold, leading to Garner's death in July 2014.

The decision came a week after the announcement that a Missouri grand jury would not be indicting Darren Wilson for his role in the death of teenager Michael Brown.

"One of our main objectives for holding the protest was to raise awareness for the injustices occurring in our society," Ladies with Emphasis on Achievement and Distinction (LEAD) President Narrean Marsden said. "Many times, racially charged issues aren't discussed within the Xavier community. We felt that



Students and members of the Xavier community joined protestors from across the country following Grand Jury decisions to not indict police officers in the deaths of unarmed black men in Ferguson, Mo., and Staten Island, N.Y.

the killings of Mike Brown and Eric Garner were events that the entire campus needed to be aware of."

Many protests have been in the form of "die-ins" during which people lie on the ground to symbolize dead bodies.

"There were two intended outcomes of the protest. The first was to show solidarity with the families of victims and other groups who are concerned with the failure of our justice system to value the black male life," President of Gentlemen Organized for Achievement and Leadership (GOAL) Chuma

Nnawulezi said. "The second was to demonstrate to the university community that the events of the past week are relevant and important to members of our community."

Several student groups collaborated to protest including the Black Student Association, GOAL and LEAD.

Protestors included people of different ethnicities, non-students and faculty members. President, Fr. Michael Graham, S.J. also joined the protest.

The protestors received prior approval from the Office of Student Involvement as well as

the Xavier Police Department to ensure safety for both protestors and others attending the game.

The protests follow from others like it across the country, some of which have even been organized by celebrities and high-profile athletes (see page 4).

"I simply hope that this protest triggered the need for further conversations about what is going on in parts of the country such as Ferguson, Staten Island, Phoenix, Cleveland and so forth. It doesn't end after the protest. I believe we all must continue to seek solutions that will better our communities," Marsden said.

## Semester in review: SGA execs' work

BY ANDREW KOCH  
Editor-in-Chief

After a full semester in office, the executives of Xavier's Student Government Association (SGA) presented a mid-year report to the Board of Trustees. The executives, President Colleen Reynolds, Administrative Vice President Thomas Edney and Legislative Vice President Shelby Alig, also sat down with the staff of the *NewsWire*. Some of the projects they reported are included below.

"We are proud of what we have accomplished so far, but are excited to finish our term strong," Reynolds said.

**Expanded ALL Card access:** An important component of the executives' platform last spring was expanding students' ability to enter dorms via their ALL Cards. Under the new rules,

which will go live next semester, students who live on campus will be able swipe in to all dorms between 10 a.m. and 10 p.m.

**New advocacy program:** The executives also began a new "Live the Commitment" campaign, which is designed to get students involved in issues affecting the Xavier community, specifically sexual assault, cyber bullying, safety procedure in the event of an active shooter on campus and suicide. For more on the Live the Commitment campaign, see page 1 of the Dec. 3 issue of the *NewsWire*.

**Other projects:** SGA also helped participate in the recent Warrior Run, which benefitted cancer research. Xavier won the "College Challenge," which measures each participating school's percentage of students involved, fundraising and commitment to



(Pictured from left to right) Administrative Vice President Thomas Edney, President Colleen Reynolds and Legislative Vice President Shelby Alig have served as the SGA Executives since their inauguration in April.

community service.

Reynolds also said that the executives have other initiatives that will soon be completed, including renovations to the intra-

mural fields and more meal plan options for commuter students.

The three are also in the process of planning 1831 Week, 10 days of spirit-related activities.

## Registrar moves course evaluation forms to Canvas

BY JUSTIN WORTHING  
Staff Writer

Students have already begun adjusting to the new course evaluation system via EvaluationKIT on Canvas, which administrators have switched to in an effort to create more sustainable business practices. All submissions still remain anonymous, but most students must now complete the evaluations outside of class.

Evaluations opened starting on midnight of Dec. 1 and will close at 11:59 p.m. on Dec. 14. These evaluations include questions which are answered on a 1 to 5 scale as well as a few written response questions.

Students who visit their class's respective Canvas pages should see a pop-up window directing them to the course evaluation. If the pop-up does not appear or if the student presses the wrong button on the pop-up, the evaluation can be accessed at the bottom of the left-hand menu bar.

Students have also received reminder emails over the past week that includes a link to Canvas as well as instructions on how to access the evaluations.

Steve Herbert, associate provost for Academic Affairs, has assured students that the switch to an online system still respects the anonymity of the submission.

"No one at Xavier can see who submitted a specific evaluation," Herbert said in a letter to students. "And since the narrative responses are typed, there are no handwritten responses to identify you. Faculty will be able to read your evaluations one week after the deadline to submit final grades passes."

Evaluations are read by the chairs of each respective department as well as the professors teaching the courses.

Canvas and EvaluationKIT are also accessible on devices other than computers, such as smart phones and tablets. Accessing the website on these devices, however, could cause some formatting issues, so it is recommended that students use computers to complete the evaluation.

All classes should be accessible via Canvas, and courses like E/RS and DCR courses which traditionally required two evaluations have now been combined into one. Students will not need to fill out two separate forms.

### Also in this issue

#### Sports

Women's basketball struggles after losing its Big East opener to St. John's and dropping a game to Middle Tennessee.

page 4



NewsWire photo by Adam Spegele

#### Feature

The Blue Blob will represent Xavier at a national mascot competition from Dec. 12 to Dec. 15 in Steamboat Springs, Colo.

page 8



Photo courtesy of nationalave.com



December 10, 2014

# Campus News

 Edited by: Lydia Rogers  
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## Faculty participate in Nicaraguan immersion

 BY MADDIE DAY  
*Staff Writer*

Xavier faculty members traveled to Nicaragua this week to experience the country's unique culture.

Xavier's Faculty Learning Communities (FLC), sponsored by the Center for Teaching Excellence (CTE), put together this week's trip for "The Transformative Potential of Faculty Immersion."

CTE works to provide Xavier faculty with collaborative learning environments that will promote reflective, engaging and effective teaching.

Participating faculty members include Josh Shanklin, Shelagh Larkin, Michelle Early, Shannon Hughes, Jill Segerman, Dr. Wendy Maxian and Dominique Brown.

Shannon O'Neill, study abroad assistant at the Center for International Education, also made the trip.

The group will join Dr. Irene Hodgson, professor of Spanish in the Department of Classics and Modern Languages, who is already in Nicaragua this year.

The group spent the majority of the fall semester studying the country's vibrant culture.

The FLC will stay in a neighborhood in Managua, Nicaragua's capital, where its members will spend

time at the local Jesuit university, The Universidad Centroamericana.

They will also visit a sustainable coffee estate called "Selva Negra" in the highlands of Northern Nicaragua.

However, most of their time will be dedicated to living in solidarity with members of the Nicaraguan community.

"The goal is to have faculty experience an immersion, or intensely spend time in an unfamiliar culture and learn from the experience," Maxian, a member of the FLC in Nicaragua said. "After experiencing an immersion ourselves, we will be able to create more challenging and rewarding experiences for students."

The FLC hope its immersion experience will help guide future coursework, enhance existing immersion opportunities, and improve university-sponsored service projects.

The CTE is supported and funded in part by the Office of the President of Xavier University.

Its FLC program is modeled after a program developed by Dr. Milt Cox of Miami University.

Cox worked directly with the facilitators of Xavier's first FLC.

For more information on CTE and its faculty learning communities, visit [www.xavier.edu/cte](http://www.xavier.edu/cte).

## Dodgeball game takes aim at hurtful words



Photo courtesy of facebook.com  
 A group of students pose with a dodgeball at the "Words Hurt" event to bring awareness to the use of hurtful words and phrases in everyday conversation.

 BY REGINA WRIGHT  
*Staff Writer*

Active Minds, Xavier's mental health advocacy group, and the LGBTQ Alliance held the "Words Hurt" dodgeball game to bring attention to hurtful words and phrases used every day.

On Dec. 5, the event brought 150 people together to play in the game in the O'Connor Sports Center.

Active Minds members hoped to raise awareness about the damage that can be caused when people use hurtful phrases without paying attention to the actual meaning of the words or even

without intentionally targeting an individual or a group.

"We wanted to do something fun and entertaining to draw people, but the metaphor of 'words hurt' could not have fit better with any game but dodgeball," junior Lindsey Mooney, president of Active Minds, said.

Each ball had masking tape with phrases such as "no homo, bro" and "my ex was crazy" attached to them.

"It's significant that we try to avoid and dodge these hurtful phrases, but not all of us escape them," Mooney said.

Although players were able to physically dodge rubber balls during the game, many people may not be able to dodge hurtful words when they are said so casually in day-to-day life.

"Everyday we use words and phrases that make fun of and stigmatize individuals because of who they are," Mooney said. "Those with mental illnesses obviously did not choose to be sick and suffering, but we diminish their pain every time we use statements like, 'I'm so OCD about my desk,' 'This weather is bipolar' or 'This class makes me want to kill myself.'"

Active Minds and the LGBTQ Alliance ultimately created the event with a common goal of addressing hurtful words, bringing awareness and promoting mutual respect on campus.

"We fail to realize just how harmful these phrases can be when we make jokes out of them instead of respecting everyone who suffers from a mental illness or identifies as LGBTQ," Mooney said.

The team who placed first won a \$150 gift card to Amazon, and the last two people standing at the end of the tournament each won a \$25 Amazon gift card.

*Edited by Lydia Rogers*

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### Interfaith Community Engagement & Xavier Dining Services



### Menu

Roasted Chicken  
 Roasted Redskin Potatoes  
 Balsamic Roasted Vegetables  
 Noodle Kugel  
 Roasted Vegetables  
 Challah Bread  
 Matzo Ball Soup  
 Dessert



# SHABBAT DINNER EXPERIENCE

## Shabbat Shalom!

Get ready for exam week with an amazing Sabbath eve dinner, and experience the traditions of the Jewish Sabbath meal.

Of course, Matzo Ball Soup will be served—  
 the PERFECT brain food!

December 12, 2014  
 5:30 pm  
 Hoff Dining Commons



Edited by: Meredith Francis  
francism@xavier.edu

December 10 , 2014

SGA appoints new senators

By MEREDITH FRANCIS  
Campus News Editor

The Student Government Association (SGA) recently announced that three new students have been appointed senators.

According to SGA Administrative Vice President Thomas Edney, 12 students submitted applications after SGA announced open applications for senate appointments. The applicants interviewed with the SGA executives and other senators.

“Every applicant was phenomenal, and we had some amazing and really quality applications. From there we chose the three senators that are going to fill the

vacancies,” Edney said.

Those senators are first-years Kiana Salazar and Joshua Tye and sophomore Hallie Grace.

The students represent a diverse academic and experiential

background, current senate, which runs until Dec. 31, 2015 due to the change in the election cycle,” Edney said.

Newly-appointed senator Hallie Grace says that she wants to help bridge the gap between the student body and the administration.

“Becoming a Xavier senator means I now have the opportunity to fully embody what it means to be a Xavier student, placing the community first and channeling my energies towards making our community the best it can be,” Grace said.

Below are the profiles of the three new senators, courtesy of SGA.



Photo courtesy of Colleen Reynolds

Xavier senator

Kiana Salazar

Major:

Special Education

Current Involvements:

On-campus job, student council for exceptional children (Project Search), 10 p.m. mass committee, mascot

Achievements:

Started an LGBT club in high school, first-generation American, first-generation college student

Issues of Interest:

Academic advising, new core, handicap accessibility

Joshua Tye

Major:

Business Management

Current Involvements:

No other current involvement

Achievements:

Served four years on SGA at Walnut Hills High School (two years as Vice President)

Issues of Interest:

Programs for inclusion and diversity, more transparency, improved communication from students to SGA and administration

Hallie Grace

Major:

Nursing

Current Involvements:

X-Change, Homework Club

Achievements:

Excited to give back to Xavier by getting involved with SGA, passionate about campus concerns but also feels strongly about serving others

Issues of Interest:

Sexual assault prevention, student commitment, upperclassmen housing

CLC extends hours of operation for finals week

By MEREDITH FRANCIS  
Campus News Editor



Newswire file photo

In order to accommodate students’ upcoming study habits for the approaching finals week, the Conaton Learning Commons (CLC) has extended its hours to “24/5.” According to Allison Morgan, assistant director of access services, the extended hours began on Nov. 30 and will remain in effect until Dec. 19. With the extended hours, students will be able to remain in the CLC throughout the night in order to work on final papers and study for exams. The library, however, will be operating on its normal hours.

CLC Extended Hours: Nov. 30 — Dec. 19

Sunday — Thursday: Open 24 Hours

Friday: 7 a.m. — 7 p.m.

Saturday: 8 a.m. — 5 p.m.

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POLICE  
NOTES



Dec. 3, 7:59 p.m. – Xavier Police, Cincinnati Fire and Rescue and Physical Plant responded to a fire alarm in Buenger Hall. An investigation revealed that a faulty pull-down station may have caused the alarm.

Dec. 5, 9:37 a.m. – Xavier Police investigated a suspicious vehicle in the Admissions Lot. The owner, who was a student, was cautioned and advised to turn him- or herself in on outstanding traffic warrants.

Dec. 5, 12:12 p.m. – An employee reported the theft of a purse from a locked office in Hinkle Hall.

Dec. 5, 4:56 p.m. – Xavier Police assisted Norwood Police with a three-car accident at Montgomery Road and Lexington Avenue. No injuries were reported.

Dec. 5, 6:46 p.m. – One student and one non-student carrying open containers on

Cleneay Avenue near McGrath Health and Wellness Center were cited for underage consumption.

Dec. 6, 1:34 a.m. – Xavier Police cited a student for underage consumption and possession of a fictitious ID. The student was intoxicated and could not get out of a taxi cab in front of Fenwick Place.

Dec. 6, 5:04 p.m. – Four students who set off a smoke alarm in Buenger Hall by smoking marijuana were cited for drug abuse.

Dec. 6, 8:20 p.m. – A student acting intoxicated and disorderly

NOTE OF THE  
WEEK

A La Carte

Dec. 7, 12:10 a.m. – Two students pushing a stolen grocery cart through the C-2 Lot were cited for underage consumption.

in Cintas Center during the basketball game was cited for underage consumption.

Dec. 7, 12:28 a.m. – Residence Life reported a damaged exit sign in Husman Hall.

Dec. 7, 3:02 a.m. – Xavier Police, Cincinnati Fire and Rescue and Residence Life responded to a fire alarm in Brockman Hall. A discharged fire extinguisher caused the alarm.

Dec. 7, 8:22 a.m. – Cincinnati Police investigated a robbery that happened roughly half a mile from campus at Reading Road and Rockdale Avenue. It was initially reported that the suspect might have come towards campus, which resulted in police activity in the area. However, initial reports turned out to be inaccurate, and the suspect was not found on campus. Xavier Police issued a public safety notice on the Xavier Safety website and Twitter account.



# Superstars show support

By RYAN O'TOOLE  
Staff Writer

In the past few weeks, a time in which America is experiencing turmoil with regards to cases in Ferguson, Mo., and Staten Island, athletes have been using their positions in popular culture to take a stance and speak out.

The first major move came in an NFL game between the St. Louis Rams and the Oakland Raiders.

St. Louis receivers Tayvon Austin and Kenny Britt came out of the tunnel holding their hands in the air, using the “hands up, don’t shoot” gesture.

They were soon followed by the rest of the receiving core. The move, a reference to Michael Brown’s reported gesture before he was shot by police officer Darren Wilson in Ferguson, spread like wildfire across the country via social media.

It is uncommon for professional athletes to risk scrutiny by making a stand on a social issue.

Their popularity puts these athletes in the spotlight causing them to always be cautious about their comments.

The next week, Derrick Rose of the Chicago Bulls donned a black shirt with “I Can’t Breathe” written boldly in white lettering across the front, a clear reference to the death of an unarmed black man, Eric Garner, in Staten Island at the hands of a white police officer.

Kyrie Irving and LeBron James from the Cleveland Cavaliers wore the shirt during warmups a few days later as a statement to

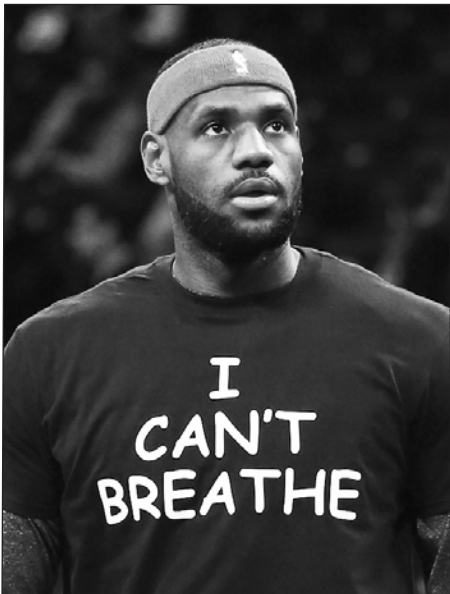


photo courtesy of philly.com

Lebron James wore a T-Shirt to raise awareness.

Garner’s family.

“It’s more of a shout out to the family more than anything, because they’re the ones that should be getting all the energy and effort,” James said.

Athletes are using their platforms as superstars to spread awareness and make statements about current social issues.

When asked by the Chicago Tribune about the shirt, Rose said, “I’m a parent now. Two years ago, I probably wouldn’t have worn the shirt. But now that I’m a dad, it changed my outlook on life, period.”

Not everyone may agree with the move, but it cannot be denied that athletes have the power to spark change, whether it is with a simple gesture or by wearing a T-shirt with three small words on it.

“My biggest concern is the kids,” Rose said. “I know what they’re thinking right now. I was one of (those) kids.”

# Sports

## Women’s basketball falls short

By ISABEL SMITH  
Staff Writer

After an exciting home overtime win over Robert Morris on Nov. 30, the women’s basketball team fell short of the same success in two road games against St. John’s University and Middle Tennessee State University (MTSU).

On Dec. 3, Xavier traveled to New York for its Big East opener against the St. John’s Red Storm where Xavier lost 65-42.

Junior forward Briana Glover led the Musketeers in scoring for the second straight game and had her sixth game of the season in double figures.

The Muskies held the lead at 8-4 before St. John’s went on to score six unanswered points and gain a 10-8 advantage. Glover added a layup, creating the third tie of the period.

St. John’s held its largest lead of the half at 21-12 until the Musketeers hit a streak to get within three points at halftime.

St. John’s came back ready to play and went on a 10-2 run to open the second half, leading to its first double figure lead of the game.

Xavier continued to fight, but the Red Storm eventually extended its advantage to 20 points with less than four minutes remaining before ending with a final score of 65-42.

Four days following this season’s inaugural Big East matchup, the Musketeers headed to Murfreesboro, Tenn., on Dec. 7 to face the Middle Tennessee State Blue Raiders in a non-conference contest.

Middle Tennessee began the game with power and hit eight of 10 shots, putting 19 points on the



Newswire photo by Adam Spegele

Gaffney (above) recorded 10 points and 4 assists in a win over MTSU.

board within the first six minutes.

The Blue Raiders held a lead as big as 25 before XU went on a scoring spree and posted nine unanswered points to narrow the margin to 16 (46-30).

In the second period, Middle Tennessee remained in the lead by double figures. Xavier added 13 turnovers to bring the total to 27 turnovers against MTSU.

The Muskies couldn’t over-

come their opposition and fell 90-68.

Again, Glover led the team with 16 points and freshman guard Kindell Fincher showed her strength with 13 points.

Sophomore guard Raeshaun Gaffney had 10 points and four rebounds and assists.

The Musketeers resume play on Dec. 10 in Cintas Center as they face the Monmouth Hawks.

# Musketeers back to winning ways

By ADAM TORTELLI  
Staff Writer

The Xavier men’s basketball team moved to 6-2 on Dec. 6 with a 97-82 victory over the Alabama Crimson Tide in front of a raucous, record-setting crowd of 10,250.

The Musketeers found success through a balanced scoring attack in what has become one the team’s most prevalent themes through these early stages of the season.

While the bulk of scoring has been carried by senior center Matt Stainbrook and freshman forward Trevon Blueitt, it was sophomore guard Myles Davis that led the charge on offense with a career-high 18 points that included a perfect four-for-four on his attempts from 3-point range.

Despite coming out of the locker room to a slow start, head coach Chris Mack saw his team turn things around on the floor from its 10-5 deficit with a run of its own.

During the team’s 14-2 re-

sponse, sophomore forward Jalen Reynolds threw down successive dunks to bring the crowd to their feet.

The Musketeer’s defense would keep the lead and senior co-captain guard Dee Davis sparked one final charge of the half as Xavier went into halftime leading 41-30.

Alabama came out of the break poised for comeback, but freshman guard J.P. Macura refused to let his team’s grasp on the game slip away.

Macura’s seven straight points extended the Musketeer’s lead to a sizeable 19 point cushion.

The commanding lead would stay for the remainder of the game as Xavier cruised to a 15-point victory, without the Crimson Tide ever getting the game within double-digits again.

Stainbrook suffered from foul trouble on calls early in the game resulting in only two minutes of first half playing time, but still managed 10 points and two steals in just 14 minutes of work.

The Musketeers returned to ac-

tion on Dec. 9 against IUPUI.

After a dreary start to the game, the Musketeers managed to put together a run at the end of the first half to head into the locker room with a four point lead at 27-23.

The first half was plagued with sloppy play and poor offensive execution.

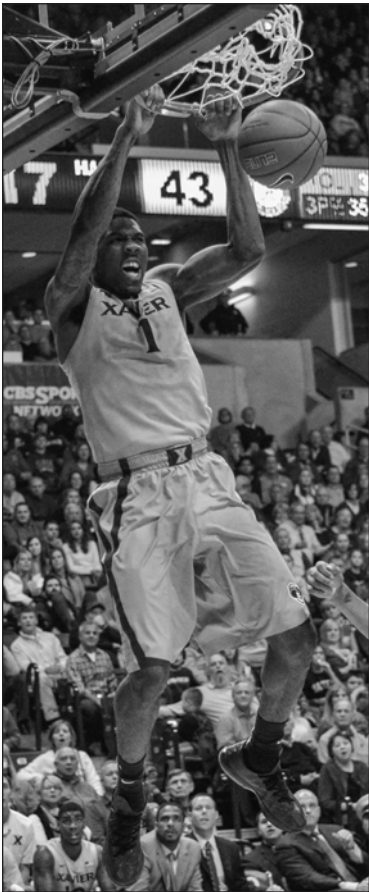
A hot start to the first half quickly landed the Musketeers firmly in the lead.

The offense finally found its rhythm, shooting 63.6 percent in the second half and the defense continued to shut down IUPUI.

Xavier finished the game decisively, winning 66-43.

Blueitt was the high scorer for the Musketeers with 12 points. Dee Davis led the team with six assists.

The Musketeers return to action on the road on Dec. 13 against the Missouri Tigers with two games following before beginning conference play on New Year’s Eve against the Georgetown Hoyas.



Newswire photo by Adam Spegele

Reynolds throws down a dunk in the first half.

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Edited by: Tatum Hunter  
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Opinions&Editorials

December 10, 2014

Wasson Way brings conflict  
Balance of power thrown off kilter

The city of Cincinnati cannot even build a bike trail without accidentally shaking the foundations of its political structures and relationships.

For years, the Wasson Way project has sought the means to convert a 6.5 mile stretch of unused train tracks between Xavier University and Newtown into a bike and pedestrian path. After innumerable snags and conflicts (the project seemed dead when it failed to receive \$3 million that was supposed to come from the failed parking meter sale), the project seems likely to receive federal grant funding and move forward.

Upon its reentry into the local political conversation, however, the Wasson Way bike path proved mildly controversial. Advocates of public transit and streetcar development would like to leave the land open to the possible development of light rail, while those against the street car would prefer the path be zoned purely as a park. This debate was minor enough, until the City Planning Commission tried to bring it to discussion and potential vote at a recent meeting and City Manager Harry Black removed the item from the agenda.

Ever heard of the City Planning Commission? A remnant of Cincinnati politics' debauched past, the commission is a coalition of seven: five electors appointed by the mayor, the city manager, and one member of city council.

Their job is to oversee and vote on any zoning or city planning laws, initiatives or ordinances proposed by the mayor or the council. Their approval (or disapproval) carries weight, as any legislation passed by the commission requires a two-thirds vote on the part of council to override.

The Commission generally operates autonomously and was intended as oversight of mayoral power. The Planning Director, who serves as secretary for the Planning Commission and who is responsible for creating the agenda, does, however, technically report to the City Manager, the mayor's right-hand man. In an unusual move, City Manager Harry Black struck the discussion of Wasson Way's rezoning to allow for future transit, claiming that the plan was improperly vetted.

The issue goes deeper than may appear. Black's meddling with the agenda is scarcely illegal, as some have suggested, but it is unprecedented. Although the autonomy of the Planning Commission is customary, it is not, strictly speaking, necessary according to the city's charter. While the City Manager is not directed to oversee the agenda for the Planning Commission, it is not outside of his role to do so.

Interestingly, Mayor Cranley has expressed his concern that the commission may have overstepped

its bounds by attempting to originate legislation rather than simply approve or disapprove the issues brought to them. As a commission designated for oversight, Cranley posits that items of this nature ought to originate with him and be passed down to the commission — this plan was not.

If Black's action becomes precedent, the power of the Planning Commission is severely limited, and perhaps this is a good thing. The original reason for the development of the Planning Commission was to ensure that the mayor could not attempt the sort of corrupt redistricting and development seen during the era of "boss politics" in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

An attempt, such as with the Wasson Way debate, by a largely unelected body to discuss and potentially approve legislation which did not originate from an elected source is worrying. Commission Chairman Caleb Faux has expressed concern over granting the city manager power to dictate the agenda. It seems far more concerning, however, to allow a commission of appointed officials to create and approve legislation which requires six of the nine council members to veto.

It is true that the conflict here appears to be between the commission and the city manager, another unelected official, but it is important to note that the city manager's basic job description is to ensure

the adherence by the government to the charter and the law. In this sense, Black is well within his job description in removing the Wasson Way rail discussion from the agenda.

Yet, it is not clear how the balance of power will resolve itself moving forward, nor where Wasson Way's development stands. All that is clear is that the City Planning Commission cannot, and apparently will not, be allowed to continue exerting the kind of power to which it seems accustomed. Hopefully this debate does not mean more interminable delays for the Wasson Way project, but it is probably more important to ensure that the balance of power in government makes sense first.

Griff Bludworth is a junior Philosophy, Politics & the Public, Honors Bachelor of Arts and theatre triple major from West Chester, Ohio.



"An attempt by a largely unelected body to discuss and potentially approve legislation which did not originate from an elected source is worrying."  
Griff Bludworth

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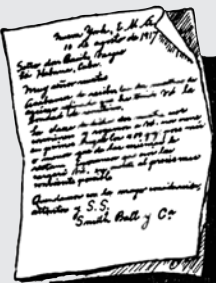
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Newswire cartoon by Digba "Digs" Coker

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December 10, 2014

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# "Black Fly" soars beyond setbacks

BY ALEX SPINDLER  
Arts & Entertainment Editor

The regional premiere of Nick Gandiello's modern drama "Black Fly Spring" made its home debut at the Gallagher Student Center Theatre to an audience that was both enthusiastic and intrigued.

Set on a mountaintop resort in the Adirondacks, "Black Fly Spring" finds the dysfunctional couple of Lana (played by ju-

moving forward past grief, heart-break and detrimental secrets.

When a town local, Kip (played by first-year Annelise Moloney), and her daughter Ashley (played by junior Ellen Godbey during this performance) enter their lives, they learn more about the perils and pleasures of living – or in some cases, not living – in a global community consumed by tragedy.

The roles played by these four

tional build and willingness to push the barriers of comfort in front of a live audience enriched the nuances of a play filled to the brim with metaphors and symbolism.

Blais, though plateauing at certain emotional climaxes, complemented Hunter well with his equally tortured portrayal of George.

Moloney delivered a fresh, more light-hearted approach to her role as Kip and also displayed a sense of sexual liberty obviously lacking in Lana and George's relationship. Although her character was onstage for only one scene, Godbey's portrayal of Ashley was both intelligent and reserved.

One of the most impressive facets of the production was the technical design. Positioned like a semi-thrust stage, this cabin-like resort room had a large, white screen that projected landscape, but more interestingly, Sarah's photos. These images coupled nicely with the stories told during the previous scene.

Also, Brian Griffin's sound design was simple and properly advanced the narrative. The constant "ticks" of the black flies, the ambiance of the wilderness and the gushing of faucets grounded a play firmly rooted in realism.

Additionally, Gandiello's script shows unlimited potential. One line in particular stood out due to its depth when Lana claims,



Photo courtesy of facebook.com

Sophomore Mac Blais (left) intensely argues with junior Tatum Hunter (right).

"There's a world out there, there's always a world." The overarching dilemmas of the play revolve around tensions between city-raised and country-raised people and the dissonance between action and inaction to a world outside of one's comfort zone. These topics and more are explored.

The main issues with the show lie in the pacing. Though the exposition took some time getting off the ground, the conflict soon gained momentum, and it endured throughout the manageable, 95-minute production.

Certain scenes – specifically the second and fifth (and final) scene – lacked the same substance as the other three, and therefore, the plot dragged. Regardless, "Black Fly Spring" produces engaging material that may be rocky at certain instances, but works overall. The intricate design and mature performances aided a play that is both promising and likely to succeed sooner than expected.

**Newsire Rating:**



Photo courtesy of faultlinetheatre.org

Nick Gandiello's compelling four-character script contains limitless potential.

nior and *Newsire* Opinions and Editorials Editor Tatum Hunter) and George (played by sophomore Mac Blais) trying to relax and plan a memorial for Lana's late sister, Sarah. Working with Sarah's most acclaimed, international photos, Lana and George struggle to combat the demons of their past while

actors demanded a sense of maturity not yet seen on the Xavier stage. These four actors took hold of this challenge and executed well-developed and complex performances. Hunter especially stood out as the mentally and physically damaged Lana.

Her frantic mannerisms, emo-

# Drowzy book and score hinder "Sleeping Beauty"

BY CAMPBELL TUEL  
Head Copy Editor

Ensemble Theatre Cincinnati (ETC) brings back its beloved "non-denominational" holiday classic with a twist.

Local playwright Joseph McDonough and composer and lyricist David Kisor create a "fractured fairytale" in the form of *Sleeping Beauty*, based on the French fairy tale by Charles Perrault.

The set, simple yet effectively constructed with multiple levels and pillars, allows for a dynamic and easily-viewed performance from high up in the audience. Brian C. Mehring's design creatively represented a "far-far away" castle and provided multiple entrances and exits for Director D. Lynn Myers' actors to utilize.

ETC's talented acting interns made multiple on-stage appearances with Deirdre Manning as Briar Rose, Terrance J. Ganser as Princes William and Edward and Xavier alumnus and former *Newsire* Arts & Entertainment Editor Patrick Phillips as the Dragon.

While the book was occa-

sionally slow and tepid at parts, performances from Phil Fiorini (King Stefan), Queen Olivia (Kate Wilford) and Falcon (Michael G. Bath) had near-perfect comedic timing to draw laughs from a captive audience during "Thorn In My Side" and "I'm A Dragon."

Deb G. Girdler's *Wisteria* was spot-on evil with twisted fingernails and Medusa-like hair. She stomped, slunk and stole the kingdom and the show with dazzling performances of "Wisteria's

Curse" and a terrifying "Cursed Be The Name – Briar Rose."

Sara Mackie (Marigold), Denise Devlin (Lilac) and Brooke Steele (Daisy) played a large, tender role as Briar Rose's stand-in caretakers, blessing-givers and narrators of the performance who showed the audience that it only takes one person to make a difference.

Costume Designer Reba Senske and Wig and Makeup Designer Kelly Yurko pulled out all the stops with artfully-crafted,

detailed costumes from *Wisteria*'s intricate wig to the buckles on Kadeem Ali Harris' (Bud) shoe buckles. Each costume looked custom made and were perfect compliments to the characters and libretto.

The cast did an excellent job carrying on through a relatively boring score and occasionally and hilariously broke the fourth wall with metatheatrical references to *Pippin*, the desire to be an actor and a non-gender specific monarchy.

ETC's holiday show is perfect for small children, complete with a sock puppet "dragon" where audience participation is a must, but don't let that stop potential viewers. "Sleeping Beauty" awakens the inner-child in everyone and leaves audience members feeling inspired to enact change in the community, making it perfect for the holiday season.

"Sleeping Beauty" runs from Dec. 3-Jan. 4, and tickets can be purchased at [www.ensemblecincinnati.org](http://www.ensemblecincinnati.org).

**Newsire Rating:**



Photo courtesy of cincinnati.com

ETC's Deirdre Manning performing the role of Briar Rose in "Sleeping Beauty"

## Upcoming Events for Arts & Entertainment

3 p.m., Dec. 14  
Kennedy Auditorium

*A capella Concert*

Harmon-X and AcaBellas a capella choral groups will hold a combined Christmas concert featuring holiday standards. Admission is free.

7:30 p.m., Dec. 19, 21, 22  
Gallagher Student Center Theatre

*Chamber Opera Concert*

The Edgecliff Vocal Ensemble will perform "Amahl and the Night Visitors" featuring MadCap Puppets and the Cincinnati Chamber Orchestra. This performance combines puppetry with chamber choral music set to a full orchestra. Xavier Professor Dr. Tom Merrill will conduct. Tickets are \$25 for adults and \$10 for children and students.



## Feature

## Rollin' to Colorado

BY HOLLIS CONNERS  
Features Editor

With basketball season well underway, the Blue Blob has been quite busy. In addition to his classes, mascot practices and game days, he will be attending the first annual Steamboat Mascot Stampede from Dec. 11-15 in Steamboat Springs, Colo. The *Newswire* sat down with the Blob to find out more about the competition.

*Xavier Newswire (XN): What exactly will you be doing while at the competition?*

**The Blue Blob:** The weekend begins Thursday evening with a dinner for everyone invited. Sixteen schools across the nation were given an invitation and accepted. Friday morning will begin with mascot boot camp, then a mascot parade and mascot tubing in the snow. Saturday will be a large array of activities to build mascot skills, all of which may potentially turn into a competition. Overall, although we are calling it a competition, it's just a bunch of activities with very competitive people involved in them. It is essentially "mascot school" with a very select group of top-of-the-charts mascots.

*XN: How have you been preparing for the competition?*

**Blob:** I've been doing lots of pushups, sit ups and racing D'Artagnan. I've started winning the races. Whether D'Artagnan is a little less strong or letting me win, I am not sure. I have also been doing strength building and yoga to calm down and stretch out before I get there.

*XN: What kinds of things will they do to help you build your mascot skills?*

**Blob:** There are going to be cardio and strength building activities. There also is boot camp for three hours.

*XN: How did you get picked to participate?*

**Blob:** The mascot in charge is actually the original Phillie Phanatic. He got together with some buddies and they are paying for all the mascots to come. If it goes

well, they can invite other schools next year. But the Phillie Phanatic and I go to the same hairstylist, and that's when he invited me.

*XN: How are you feeling about the competition?*

**Blob:** I am nervous, but excited. I'm going up against state schools and they get scholarships to go to their schools, but I don't. I have to work really hard and go to all of my classes in addition to the mascot events, whereas the state school mascots can go for free and focus on their mascot duties.

*XN: Is D'Artagnan doing anything to help?*

**Blob:** He has been really supportive. He is trying to share the spotlight since he gets it a lot of the time and he wants to share it with me.

*XN: How are you managing training for this with your classes?*

**Blob:** It's tough. I am working super hard on my degree. It's a lot of pressure to go to class and to train all the time in addition to the games since the season has picked up. I am trying to stay away from coffee right now. I love Coffee Emporium and am trying to stay away from the Blue Blob Glacial Latte.

*XN: What do you hope to gain from this experience?*

**Blob:** I hope more people will recognize me as more than just the secondary mascot and that I will be good enough to stand alongside D'Artagnan instead of behind him. I love supporting D'Artagnan, but I want to be next to him. Hopefully it will also help me train for the Mascot Broomball, which is in January. I want to be a lot better this year because in the past I have been kind of shaky.



Photos courtesy of The Blob



"I am jealous the Blob gets to miss classes right before exams, but I really hope he does a good job so maybe I can go next year."

-D'Artagnan

